

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, July 14, 2003

Contact: Jamie Callahan (517) 373-2413 or Jennifer Bowman (517) 373-7946

Senators Allen and Stamas Set to Promote Tourism in Northern Michigan

Multi-Day Tour Highlights History, Food, Festivals and Fun

(LANSING) – From Alpena to Tawas City and Indian River to Gaylord, Northern Michigan possesses an abundance of great opportunities for tourists to enjoy, and today Sens. Jason Allen and Tony Stamas announced a two-day tour intended to highlight those opportunities.

"The purpose of this tour is to highlight the many tourism opportunities that await Michigan residents and out-of-state travelers in northeast Michigan," Allen, R-Traverse City, said. "The area is blessed with crystal-clear waters, numerous state parks, historic lighthouses, a beautiful Lake Huron shoreline and an overall inviting atmosphere. I would like to encourage everyone to join us in northeast Michigan and enjoy the beauty and excitement the area has to offer."

Sens. Allen and Stamas' tour will start Friday, July 18 at the Brown Trout Festival in Alpena and will conclude Saturday, July 19 at the Gaylord Alpenfest with a host of events and visits in between.

"I look forward to this tour to increase the Sunrise Side's visibility, and to encourage those who are unfamiliar with the sites to come out and enjoy the splendid array of sightseeing adventures," Stamas said. "Northern Michigan is blessed with many natural resources and wonderful community involvement – including numerous parades and festivals, and we want to ensure the public is aware of these exciting events."

Following the Brown Trout Festival, Sens. Allen and Stamas are scheduled to then tour Alpena and the marine sanctuary, head to Summerfest in Tawas City, visit the Flour Garden in Harrisville, enjoy a lighthouse tour in Rogers City, and close the day at the Indian River Summerfest Chili Cook-Off.

The tour will resume Saturday, July 19 with early morning activities in the Gaylord area participating in the Alpenfest Parade.